

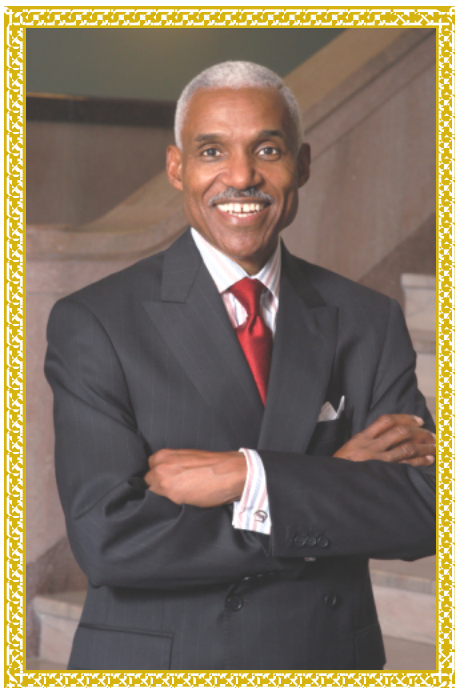


Countylines

August/September 2006

Shelby County Government Employees Newsletter

Volume I Number 3



*Mayor A C Wharton, Jr.
Shelby County Mayor*

Leadership, vision, and positive growth

Traveling all across Shelby County, I see that our citizens have great vision about what they want their communities to be. As I embark on my second term of office, I believe it is my duty as the County's leader to help our communities make their dreams real.

The last four years have been stressful in County Government as we've addressed our financial crisis. The next four years, however, will make clear the benefits of our hard work and show the citizens the positive future of Shelby County.

Over the next four years we're going to focus on issues our citizens are most concerned about: good jobs, healthy children, lower crime, and a strong, safe, well-prepared community. The citizens of Shelby County have high expectations for Shelby County Government, and I know that, working together, we won't let them down.



Peter Edmiston accepting the award, background L-R Mike Yarber, Maggie Conway, Mayor Jim Rout, Mayor A C Wharton, Jr., Mayor Bill Morris.



Peter Edmiston (Peggy's son) and Wilbur Edmiston (Peggy's husband) accepting the plaque to be placed in the building.

SHELBY COUNTY BUILDING DEDICATION - PEGGY EDMISTON



On Friday, June 30, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., Mayor Wharton dedicated the Peggy W. Edmiston Administration Building formerly (the old Shelby County Health Care Center) at 1075 Mullins Station Road. Peggy W. Edmiston, spent most of her sixty two years helping people from all walks of life, with thirty eight of those years being spent in government as a welfare worker and policymaker. She started her career with Shelby County Government in 1976 where she worked as the Director of Community Services under four Mayors. Ms. Edmiston devoted her life to working for Shelby

County citizens who could not help themselves, such as children at risk, homebound seniors, broken families, the elderly and numerous other people who could not care for themselves. Peggy spent countless hours in the old Shelby County Health Care Center, which was then a nursing home for the elderly, helping the residents with their problems. After closing the nursing home the building was renovated for county office space and was called the Shelby County Administration East Building. Ms. Edmiston ultimately housed her mother there when she needed round the clock care. Therefore, we find it fitting that Mayor A C Wharton, Jr. and the Shelby County Board of Commissioners have proclaimed that the Old Shelby County Health Care Center be renamed in honor and memorial to "The Peggy W. Edmiston Administration Building".



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Corrections

(NPC Liaison: Jackie Coleman)

Special Thanks and Gratitude to the Shelby County Division of Corrections Employees

Employees of the Shelby County Division of Corrections, can say in the time of need we come together as a family, to provide the support that is needed. I would like to share a touching story with you.

On March 2, 2006 Sgt. Elaine Morris, a Sergeant at the Shelby County Division of Corrections, her daughter and three grandchildren lost their home in an electrical fire. They lost everything, fortunately no one was injured. When her co-workers at the Division of Corrections heard about the tragedy, they came to the



aide of Sgt. Elaine Morris and her family.

The employees brought clothes, furniture, televisions, pots and pans, and whatever else was needed.

The employees at the Division of Corrections donated over \$1,000.00 and continued to give from their hearts. Sgt. Morris was elated, to know people really cared, and were so supportive during her family's time of need.

Sgt. Morris has been an employee at the Shelby County Division of Corrections for 16 years and stated, "this was the proudest moment for her to be a part of an organization that has been so kind and giving, and the love shown for her family through their tragedy." God truly sent some wonderful angels from the Shelby County Division of Corrections.

To the entire Shelby County Division of Corrections, employees and administration from Sgt. Elaine Morris, thank you and she loves your giving spirit. May God Bless You.

Spotlight

Outstanding Employees at Shelby County Division of Corrections



Officer Gussie Mister,

has been employed at the Shelby County Division of Corrections since October 16, 1989, as a Corrections Officer. Officer Gussie Marie Mister is a Christian who loves God and is not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She is a member of World Overcomers Outreach Ministries Rev. Alton R. Williams, is pastor. Officer Mister is in Partnership with breakthrough, a Media Ministry of World Harvest Church of Columbus, Ohio, Creflo Dollar Ministries, of College Park, Georgia Kenneth Copeland Ministries of Fort Worth, Texas and Crenshaw Christian Center. Officer Mister is a member of the Memphis Music Association and the National Association of Female Executives (N.A.F.E.).

Officer Mister has worked with the Memphis City Schools in the Elementary Department and the Exchange Club Program that involves assisting with

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ Operation Feed ★
★ CAN-CAN ★
★ Review Winners ★
★ Congratulations, Shelby County ★
★ Division of Corrections Em- ★
★ ployees for coming in first ★
★ place at the Operation Feed ★
★ Can-Can Review. ★
★ Special thanks to the talented ★
★ Ms. Tammy Bell Nash who ★
★ wrote the skit that won us first ★
★ place. ★
★ Way to go! ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



WELCOME BACK
TO SCHOOL

Shelby County Schools
Memphis City Schools
Private & Parochial Schools

Corrections

(NPC Liaison: Jackie Coleman)

children who have numerous complaints of neglect, misfortunes and sexual abuse and autistic children with special needs.

She has successfully published one children's book titled, "The Perfect Egg," published in 2001 by 1st Books Library of Bloomington, Indiana.

There will be two more children's books available this year. Officer Mister has written numerous gospel songs. She had an opportunity to write a gospel song in 2005 titled, "Love Worth Finding" for Dr. Adrian Rogers, who was pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church before his retirement. Hilltop Records of Hollywood, California has chosen two (2) of her gospel songs, titled "Miracles of God and I Can Call Him God," which will be on their gospel album titled Heaven is My Home. This album will be on CD this summer.

Officer Mister's new spiritual book will be out May 2006, this book is titled, "Who Man Could Have Been In The Body Of Christ. You can purchase this Book at Barnes and Nobles or Davis-Kidd Bookstore in the Memphis area. Congratulations Officer Mister and keep making us proud of you.



birthday celebration, so many had wonderful things to say about him including, how God fearing, humble, hard-working, polite, respectful and honest a person Towns is. He truly leaves a lasting impression on anyone he contacts. Keep up the good work and thank you for touching so many people with your kindness.

Mother

*Mother you filled my days with rainbow lights,
Fairytale and sweet dream nights,
A kiss to wipe away my tears,
Gingerbread to ease my fears.
You gave the gift of life to me,
And then in love, you set me free.
I thank you for your tender care,
For deep warm hugs and being there.
I hope that when you think of me, a part of you,
you'll always see.*



When You Have A Mother

*When you have a mother who cares so much for you that anything you want becomes her desires no matter what is bothering you, she can make you smile
When you have a mother who is so strong that no matter what obstacles she faces she is always confident in front of you.
When you have a mother who actively pursues her goals in life but includes you in all her goals you are very lucky indeed. Having a mother like this makes it easy to grow up into a loving, strong adult.
Thank you for being this kind of wonderful mother.*

Officer Ronald Towns,

has been employed at the Shelby County Division of Corrections since December 16, 1988 as a Corrections Officer. Officer Towns is an exemplary employee and co-worker in every sense of the word. On March 2, 2006 at the SCDC Chapel, a birthday celebration was given in honor of Officer Towns organized by Officer Johnnie Fondren. Officer Towns organized the Officer's Care Fund, where he collects monetary donations for co-workers on sick leave, with death in the family or unforeseen hardship. Officer Towns keeps in touch with the employees who might be off on extended sick leave, and also takes it upon himself to visit those who are hospitalized. There have been many times that Officer Towns bears the expense of sending flowers to an employee or family with sickness or death. During the

Officer Connie Dishmon-McDonald Greatest Mother

Officer Connie Dishmon-McDonald, has been employed at the Shelby County Division of Corrections since July 1, 1987. as a Corrections Officer. Officer Dishmon-McDonald is the mother of Kanesha Williams, an 11th grader and very outstanding student and daughter. Kanesha wrote a special poem of what she thinks about her mother.

Great potential is sometimes overlooked. Kanesha is an honor student who loves to write, play volley ball and soccer, cooks and loves her mother dearly. Officer Dishmon-McDonald has done well raising such an outstanding young lady. This poem is for all mothers who have daughters that care like Kanesha cares about her mother.

Commissioners

(NPC Liaison: Frances Elkins)

Wedding Bells

Dr. Cleo C. Kirk, Shelby County Commissioner for District 3 Position 2, and Katherine Moore Kirk, recently retired Administrative Assistant to Shelby County Clerk Jayne Creson, gave away their baby daughter in marriage on Saturday, May 27th, but they gained a son. Daughter Kathy Lynn Kirk is an Assistant Contracts Administrator for Shelby County. Kathy's new husband Garvin Johnson, is a Deputy Jailer for Shelby County's Juvenile Court. The couple was married at the bride's church, The Temple of Deliverance Church of God in Christ on Mississippi Boulevard.



A dentist by profession, Dr. Kirk was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Shelby County Board of Commissioners in June of 1989, and elected to his first full 4-year term in August of 1990. Dr. Kirk's final term will end on September 30, 2006 after 17 years on the board. Dr. Kirk has spent his tenure primarily as the Budget and Finance Committee Chairman, but has been a member of the General Government, Hospitals and Health, Law Enforcement and Delinquent Tax Parcel committees. He has also served as Chairman Pro Tempore of the commission in 1992. Please join in

wishing Commissioner Kirk good luck in his future endeavors.

The rehearsal dinner for Kathy and Garvin was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Cleo Kirk, and hosted by the groom's mother, Eva Johnson, on Friday, May 26th. After the wedding ceremony on Saturday, a reception was held at the Peabody Hotel. The couple was given a farewell brunch by friends and family at the Doubletree Hotel on Sunday morning May 28th before their departure for Jamaica where they enjoyed their honeymoon, MON!

From the Desk of John Willingham

I feel I must take this opportunity to formally thank the members of my Shelby County Family for the support and friendship that have been shown toward me over the last four years.

At times when I attempted to aggressively pursue solutions to the County's problems, I sometimes stepped on toes but always received the respect and full support of those on the County Commission staff.

Although I elected not to pursue another term as Commissioner for District 1 Position 3, I look forward to working with each of you in another capacity within or without County Government.

Respectfully,

*John Willingham, Commissioner
SC Board of Commissioners*

Community Services

(NPC Liaison: Toya Mason)

DOES IT WORK?

Andy Wise will ask the question “Does it Work?” and then demonstrate the product resulting in a pass or fail grade. The citizens of Shelby County will ask the same question of programs being offered within the community seldom knowing the results. The Shelby County Community Services Agency has demonstrated and proven that their products do work.

The Community Services Agency, a division of Community Services acronym (CSA) was originally part of the War on Poverty Initiative of the mid-1960's. A variety of programs designed to serve low-income residents of Shelby County, Tennessee. The following programs are currently being offered in the Shelby County area that you may or may not be aware of:

Weatherization

CSBG Housing (Home Repairs)

Homeless Assistance

Emergency Energy Assistance

Energy Assistance

Self-Sufficiently

Emergency Pharmacy

Emergency Rent and Mortgage

Commodities

Information and Referral

During the year 2004-2005, CSA has served more than 26,000 people with a staff of only 59 employees 11 of which are part-time.

What are the results of “Does CSA Work?”

- 234 persons gaining better-paying jobs
- 132 obtaining pre-employment skills and/or training
- 43 obtaining child-care/other dependent care to obtain employment
- 4,740 obtaining increased disposable income by obtaining food
- 508 obtaining increased disposable income by obtaining other items

24 obtaining and earning Earned Income Tax Credit

29 obtaining court-ordered child support

7 obtaining lifelines

107 enrolled in On-Track program for Utility restoration

532 receiving safe and affordable housing preserved by weatherization/rehab

10,970 volunteer hours supporting the work of Community Action

16,705 receiving information and referral contacts in the Community

3,830 low income people participating in formal boards/policy councils affecting community action efforts

925 organizational partnerships established promoting community outcomes

\$132,798 mobilized over and beyond State and Federal Grants

8,111 Senior Citizens assisted

2,148 handicapped/disabled citizens assisted

15,633 Emergency Vendor Payments for energy assistance, rent/mortgage and pharmacy

160 received emergency transportation assistance (i.e. bus passes)

77 households received temporary shelter

34 households obtained protection from violence

21 households obtained legal assistance

33 households obtained disaster relief assistance

166 households emergency clothing

84 households moved from homeless or transitional housing into permanent housing

314 infants and children obtained access to healthcare and pre-school activities

447 youth obtained access to programs to improve physical/social and emotional well-being and

357 parents and other adult learning improved parenting and family functioning skills.

Does CSA Work?

PASS

Team work at its BEST

On May 1, 2006, the Crime Victims Center was left without their right hand (Secretary). Knowing the time it takes to fill a permanent/part-time or temporary position of any kind, the department looked for other ways to get a much needed job done.

With creative minds working together to save money, Donna Pavatte and Heidi Verbeek presented the idea to use existing employees in rotation within their division saving money, time and energy.

The employees began working May 1st, and their assignments ended on May 31st. Coming away with a new wealth of knowledge about the Crime Victims Center, the following employees worked weekly and several dreaded the end:

- ♦ Cyndai Holmes—Head Start
- ♦ Andrea McGhee—Head Start
- ♦ Naomi Taylor—Pre-Trial
- ♦ Henrietta Harris—CSA
- ♦ Judith Dobbs—CSA

Judith Dobbs one of the relief persons became the new secretary for the Crime Victims Center. A loss for CSA, but still a gain for the division as a whole.

Team work defined by the American Heritage Dictionary as: Cooperative effort by the members of a group or team to achieve a common goal. *n.* **Community Service Division.**

Congratulations to everyone for their Team-work, what a great idea possibly, for other divisions.

County Attorney

(NPC Liaisons: Marcia Boyd)

The County Attorney's Office..... Sharing Their Dream

Each summer the County Attorney's Office hires college interns who have a desire to work in the legal community. The staff is always available to assist and answer questions. As well, even some attorneys have shared their stories of success in an effort to inspire and motivate the interns to continue their dream.

Meet Courtney

Courtney Clothier is a summer intern serving as a law clerk in the County Attorney's Office. Courtney currently attends law school at the University of Memphis – Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law where she has been attending since 2005. Her expected date of graduation is in 2008. When asked who inspired her to go to law school, Courtney stated that her stepfather inspired her because he really enjoys what he does as a lawyer and it truly shows. Therefore, Courtney not only wants to make a difference in the legal community, but she would like to have fun doing it. As Courtney loves to travel and catch up with friends, she has also enjoyed working in the County Attorney's Office. When asked about her experience, she states, "I have thoroughly enjoyed working here. I have learned a lot just in the past few weeks. Christy Kinnard (Assistant County Attorney) in particular has been so helpful showing me around and teaching me the ropes." The County Attorney's Office also participates in the Commissioners Summer Program where high school and college students experience the real work life in County Government in hopes of pursuing their dreams for a better tomorrow.

Meet Brittnay

Brittnay Kathrina Scales is a recent high school graduate who attends Southwest Tennessee Community College as an Art major. In the near future, she hopes to transfer to Tennessee State University, University of Memphis or Virginia State University. She plans on majoring in Studio Art, as she would like to be a

photographer who travels the world taking pictures and painting. When asked who inspired her to go to college and pursue her dream, Brittnay states her cousin, Joy and best friend, Jose' continued to give her long speeches about going to college to have a better career. As well, Brittnay states that while working in the County Attorney's Office she has been influenced by so many and caused her to realize that even if her art career does not take off, she can always go back to school to become a paralegal. Brittnay would like to thank everyone in the County Attorney's Office for letting her work there again as she really loves working there. In her very own words, "I truly love it here." Outside of school and work, Brittnay enjoys painting, dancing, watching T.V. and spending time with friends and her new goddaughter.

Meet Mimi

Mimi Poe is currently working towards a M.A. in Psychology at the College of William and Mary where she expects to graduate in May 2007. She has studied psychology for approximately five years, and has earned a B.A. at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Mimi hopes to enroll in law school the following fall after receiving her masters. She has a desire to enter the legal profession and use her background in psychology to address problems of public interest. Mimi knew that she wanted to work in the legal field, when she began working as a telephone counselor. She realized the extent of how legal issues can affect one's livelihood. Mimi states, "This experience inspired me to pursue a career in law so that I could make an impact on people's lives in a more concrete, direct manner." As she learns more about the sundry areas of the legal profession, she will select a specialization that best utilizes her abilities and interests.

Mimi is currently the President of the Graduate Student Association and enjoys cooking, and traveling. While working at the County Attorney's Office, she has truly enjoyed her experience working this summer and is very impressed by the office's camaraderie. Also, she is grateful that the attorneys have taken an

interest in her ambitions and exposure to their field. Whether you are a summer intern for legal experience or just working towards a brighter future, the County Attorney's Office is the place to be. They have opened their doors on many occasions and have gladly shared in their dream as a stepping-stone into their future!

Building for the Future Program

The Shelby County Public Defender's Office helped birth, Building for the Future (BFF) 16 years ago. Mayor Wharton, Chief Public Defender then, wanted programs to train inmates at the Shelby County Corrections Center with marketable skills. The dollar that incarcerates should be used to educate was the guiding principle of meetings held weekly at the Public Defender's Office. Partnering with the Shelby County Corrections Center, Carpenter's Local 345, Memphis Housing & Community Development, Shelby County Housing and other agencies, BFF began training inmates in the building trades. On the job training was used to build wall panels and roof trusses at the SCCC which were shipped to the site to erect a home for a low income family. BFF trained over 2,000 inmates in building trades and built over 200 homes for low income families. After tracking graduates for five years, the rate of return to the Justice System was less than half that of other inmates. Even when rearrested, charges were usually less serious offenses such as driving violations. As a result of great work, BFF has received numerous grants and awards. In 1999 BFF won an Innovation in Government Award from Harvard University. Homes built by BFF are available to families that meet the Affordable Housing guidelines. Interested prospective buyers can call Ms. Ruth Gipson at BFF partner VECA CDC to inquire about home purchase. Her number is 278-1782. She also conducts credit counseling and home ownership assistance classes.

Elected Officials

(NPC Liaisons: Marcia Boyd)

PAYING TAXES IS NOW EVEN EASIER !



Bob Patterson and Bertha Stephens

Shelby County Trustee, Bob Patterson has spent numerous hours promoting the benefits of the Tax Relief program for elderly and disabled citizens. He has been a strong proponent of increased dollars and easier requirements to assist even more deserving taxpayers.

The determined and consistent effort is paying off. This year the household income limit has been increased from \$12,980 to \$20,000. The average benefit may increase from \$181.80 to \$252.50 with no changes in tax rates.

Here are the general requirements:

- Age 65 or older or
- 100 % disabled citizen or
- 100% disabled veteran or widow(er) of disabled veteran
- Never has to be repaid!

Mr. Patterson wants everyone who knows a senior citizen or disabled taxpayer to share the good news about Tax Relief for 2006. Taxpayers may call Trustee Customer Service at 521-1829 to apply.

Shelby County Jail Recommended For Accreditation

Chief James E. Coleman along with ACA auditors from the American Corrections Association congratulates Sgt. Debra Hammonds and her accreditation

team for the hard work they did to receive accreditation with a score of 96.5 through the American Correction Association. The jail is being recommended to be nationally accredited, a status never to be held by the jail.

After the auditors toured the jail they found it to be proficient in 361 of 374 standards, including health and safety issues, fire inspections, corrections deputies use of force, cell size, discipline and staff pay.

Once considered one of the worst facilities in the country because of gang violence, overcrowding issues and staff misconduct we are now among the best rated jails in the country.

Accreditation is awarded to "The Best of the Best" in the corrections field; staff has a better understanding of policies and procedures which contributes to improved working conditions for all staff. Administration line staff as well as offenders benefit from increased accountability, attention to physical plant issues and security procedures.

Chief James Coleman who came to this department in 2001 as the Asst. Chief of programs took over the helm as Chief jailer in July 2004. With over one-thousand staff members working in the department everyone came together during "crunch time," the last forty eight hours to make sure everything was in the right places, looked good, and most of all met the requirements needed to make accreditation happen.

Congratulations to everyone working within the jail division on a job well done.



Chief James Coleman, Inez Tann, Sgt. Debra Hammonds, Officer Dorethea Wiggins, Rosemary Presley, Mae Henry, Sgt. Lawanda Talley and Bill O'Sullivan



Sgt. Debra Hammonds

Twenty-One Correction Deputy Recruits Graduate from the Sheriff's Office Training Academy

Twenty one correction deputy recruits graduated from the Sheriff's Office Training Academy June 15th after one week of administrative orientation and five weeks of basic recruit training.

After graduation the recruits are assigned to training officers for four weeks for on the-job training with nine months probation. Afterwards the recruits will be assigned to work housing units within the main jail at 201 Poplar.

The recruits were among many candidates selected for the job, they underwent an intensive background search, physical agility testing and the interviewing process before being hired by the sheriff's office.



Courts

(NPC Liaison: Nadolyn Dunigan)

A SHELBY COUNTY DRUG COURT NEARS ITS 100TH GRADUATION CEREMONY a



Judge Tim Dwyer

In late 1996 and early 1997, concerned members of the Criminal Justice Center set out to implement a program which would be of service to persons suffering with drug addiction, their families and the taxpayers of Shelby County.

The Shelby County Drug Court was implemented in February 1997. Since its inception, Judge Tim Dwyer has presided as the "Drug Court Judge" in Division 8 of General Sessions Court.

The Drug Court was implemented with a two fold purpose: (1) nonviolent offenders who acknowledge substance abuse and drug addiction are offered an opportunity to address and conquer their dependency and (2) offer an alternative to incarceration to assist in reducing the overcrowded conditions of the Shelby County Jail. As a result of treatment, there has been evidence a decrease in recidivism for clients who successfully complete the program. An analysis of the target population showed many offenders with drug addiction were continuing to engage in criminal activity as a source of support for their addiction. The Drug Court's goal is to stop the abuse of alcohol and other drugs by providing treatment to offenders.

Offenses scheduled and/or referred to the Drug Court docket range from Shoplifting (petty theft) to Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Sell, Manufacture or Deliver. There is no age limit to these adult offenders and gender is no restriction.

The Drug Court identifies and monitors both misdemeanor and felony offenders who agree to participate in a year-long treatment program. Offenders are assessed and initially placed in an intensive outpatient or residential treatment program. Offenders participate in three phases of drug treatment, undergo regularly administered drug screens and return to court where Judge Dwyer and his team review treatment progress.



L – R: Katrina Ford, Sheronda Smith and Carolyn Devauld

The Drug Court team includes four full-time staff members: a court supervisor, two court counselors, and a court coordinator. There are also three Assistant District Attorneys, three Public Defenders and two investigators assigned to the Court along with courtroom clerks and Sheriff Department personnel.

In 2003 Shelby County Drug Court was named a "Mentor Court" by the National Drug Court Association. Of the more than 1,200 drug courts in the country, fewer than 100 courts hold that honor.

The Drug Court also handles 2nd offense DUI offenders who are also required to participate in a year long treatment program.

The structured treatment program approach offers an alternative to jail and prison for addicted offenders seeking help with substance abuse problems. In exchange for successful completion of

the Drug Court Program, the court may dismiss the original charge, reduce or set aside a sentence, or offer some lesser penalty. Due to the judge and staff taking a primary role of keeping participants engaged in treatment, providers can effectively focus on developing a therapeutic relationship with the participants.

Upon successful completion of the treatment program, there is a graduation ceremony for participants on the last Wednesday of each month. The participants' family and friends are invited to witness the occasion. Graduates are awarded honors for such accomplishments as receiving their GED while in the program. To date, 76 clients have received their GED while in treatment program.

During one graduation ceremony, Judge Dwyer performed the wedding of a graduate of the program. A special award was named for this graduate who had excelled despite barriers and setbacks.

Since the start of the program and through June 2006, the Drug Court has successfully graduated 794 participants. The Drug Court will proudly celebrate its 100th Graduation in September. Please join Judge Dwyer and his staff in this great celebration on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. in Division 8 of General Sessions Criminal Court.

Volunteers Needed

The Office of Emergency Preparedness of The Memphis and Shelby County Health Department is recruiting thousands of volunteers, over the age of 18, to assist in operating clinics, or points of distribution for medications, in the event of a public health emergency or disaster. We encourage you to join our "Public Health Reserve Corps". In doing so you will receive orientation and training and will be helping to build a strong, prepared volunteer resource base that can be rapidly activated during an emergency. For information please call 901-544-6880

Courts

(NPC Liaison: Nadolyn Dunigan)

CRIMINAL COURT CLERK'S OFFICE MEETS FUTURE AND IMMEDIATE NEEDS



L-R: Sandra Cross Peterson, Bill Key and Estellita Jamison,

Bill Key and his staff in the Shelby County Criminal Court Clerk's office planned numerous activities in their office as fundraisers for the Feed the Need campaign. The coordinators for this year's campaign were: Sandra Cross-Peterson and Estellita Jamison.

They practiced and performed in the County's Kick Off on June 8 leaving the audience applauding in their rendition of an original of "It's Hard Out Here for the Man."

From the kick off date, they took off running with a Homemade breakfast at Miss Yvonne's Place and wrapped up the day with a silent auction. In the flavor of "So You Think You Can Dance, they have also sponsored A "Dance-A-Thon." To keep everyone healthy, they had "Super Salad Friday."

While attempting to meet the ultimate goal of meeting the need for the Memphis Food Bank, these thoughtful coordinators and staff take the opportunity to meet immediate needs by donating all unsold food items to the Memphis Union Mission at the end of the day.

Donald Williams, Supervisor at the Memphis Union Mission, states his agency is grateful for those who care enough to be concerned about others.



L-R: Estellita Jamison, Melvin Yarbrough, Donald Williams and Sandra Cross-Peterson

Certified Public Administrator



Janis Dunavant

Congratulations go out to Janis Dunavant, Director of Administrative Services in the Criminal Court Clerk's office. She recently achieved the status of Certified Public Administrator by successfully completing a program known as the County Officials Certificate Training Program (COCTP).

This program is a nationally recognized training program for Tennessee county officeholders and their staff. Officeholders and employees who successfully complete the program are designated by the University of Tennessee as certified public administrators. This designation is retained each year through a recertification process.

Again, congratulations, Janis!

EAP Welcomes New Counselor

EAP has hired another counselor effective August 1, 2006. This is particularly exciting, since his arrival will allow for the following enhancements in the Shelby County Government EAP services:

- ◆ The EAP will offer evening appointments to employees whose dependants, family members, etc. can not come during the 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. office hours.
- ◆ The utilization review function will be centralized, which will increase staff efficiency for both the EAP and provider agencies. (Provider agencies have reacted extremely positively to this proposal.)
- ◆ The EAP will have a professional with extensive governmental EAP experience (U.S. Postal Service) and has held the Certified Employee Assistance Professional designation from the international accrediting organization for EAPs.

In addition, the EAP will have an 800 number for employees' dependants in college, retirees who have moved outside the City, etc. to call 24-hours a day for counseling/crisis intervention.

Each of the above will enhance our ability to better serve Shelby County employees. We continue to research cost-effect ways to enhance the quality of our services.

Health & Wellness

(NPC Liaison: Catherine Green)

Winners of the Department Healthy Recipe Cooking Competition

Shelby County Government's Health & Wellness Committee proudly announces the Criminal History Records and Identification Division of the Sheriff's Office as the winner of the "Department Healthy Recipe Cooking Competition" held during the celebration of National Nutrition month in March. Accepting the "The Classic & Distinctive Healthy Cooking Award" for demonstrating extraordinary healthy culinary skills from Mayor A C Wharton from left to right are Darlene Zuber, Helen Wren, Christine Reeves and Deborah Hooker.

The winners were selected based on the criteria listed:

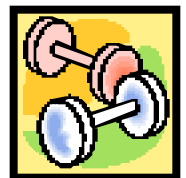
1. Departments were required to prepare a healthy menu and/or breakfast, lunch, snack, dinner, or dish.
2. Recipes did not have to be original, but, the contestant was required to cite the source.
3. Departments were required to take photos of the prepared item(s). This photo must have included staff members working on the project within the department.
4. A brief statement detailing what made the dish(es) healthy.
5. The photo and a typed recipe were submitted to the committee by March 31st.



The Department winner was announced April 7th. Please join us in saluting the ladies of the Criminal Records and Identification Division for **Rising Up To A Healthy Challenge**. The winning healthy recipes and other healthy recipes are available at our intranet site.

County Wellness/Fitness Programs for Employees

Shelby County Health & Wellness Committee has explored opportunities for providing accessible and affordable Fitness Programs inclusive of a comprehensive fitness package for employees. The committee reviewed fitness benefits options from various fitness centers across the County. In an effort to offer a convenient choice for employees, the committee will accept two fitness proposals. We received approval of the selected centers by Senior Administration in early July and each fitness center will be invited to a forum to share information regarding their services, as well as, enroll interested employees. Details to the fitness centers will be available via intranet/e-mail within the coming weeks.



New Members

Currently, the Health & Wellness Committee consists of employees from CSA, EAP, Employee Benefits, the Fire Department, the Health Department, Health Policy, Pretrial Services, Support Services, and the Univ. of TN. The committee meets the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am. If your department is not represented on this committee and you are interested in serving on the Health & Wellness Committee, please contact Catherine Green at 545-4390.



National Employee Health and Wellness Day



Nellie Campbell and Cheryl Pollich with Health Promotions sponsored activities for Employee Health and Wellness Day, May 17, 2006. Employees walked and took part in an aerobic dance class.

Health Department

(NPC Liaison: Joan Carr)

Prepare for Back to School

It's never too early to begin planning for the coming school year. Parents can help their child be ready to attend school on the first day by making sure all the necessary requirements are taken care of weeks ahead of time. Remember, lines are often long at birth certificate offices and appointments at doctor's offices and clinics often need to be scheduled weeks in advance. Planning ahead may save time and reduce frustration as deadlines approach later in the summer.

To enter Tennessee Kindergarten -12th grade schools for the first time, your child must have a physical exam and a valid immunization record, (often referred to as the "Green Card").

Parents must also show proof the child lives in the district, have a valid birth certificate and a Social Security number for the child. Birth certificates for children born in Shelby County cost \$7 for the first copy and \$4 for each additional copy. They are available at:

- 😊 Vital Records East Office at 6590 Kirby Center Cove and
- 😊 Vital Records Office at 814 Jefferson Avenue
- Immunization requirements for school entry:
- 😊 DTP at least 4 - one of which must be after the 4th birthday - for all grades
- 😊 Polio at least 4 - for all grades
- 😊 MMR 2 - both of which have to be given after the 1st birthday - for all grades.
- 😊 Hepatitis B series for Kindergarten and 7th grade. Depending upon the vaccine given, a series may consist of three (3) or two (2) injections. If the student had this series of Hep B shots as a baby, the shot does not need to be repeated for 7th grade.
- 😊 Varicella (Chickenpox) - 1 given after 1st birthday or history of the disease for Kindergarten.

School Based Dental Program

DID YOU KNOW?

The Memphis and Shelby County Health Department has a School Based Dental Program especially designed to provide preventive dental services to all elementary and middle schools in Memphis and Shelby County where 50 percent or more of the students qualify for free lunches. The program provides dental education, exams, toothbrushes and preventive dental sealants on site during school hours through the use of portable dental equipment. Since the program began in 2002, dentists and dental hygienists have provided services in 12 schools. Exams and cleanings are provided free of charge to any student with a signed permission slip.



Losers are Big Winners in Weight Loss Contest



52 Health Department employees competed in a "Biggest Loser" contest this spring. Only 12 finished the competition. All of those competitors lost weight through diet and exercise. Annie McClatchey won the women's division by losing 21 pounds, more than any of the other female competitors. Fabian Howard won in the men's division by losing 6 pounds. They both won goody bags filled with prizes and gift certificates. All of those who competed gained knowledge about how daily food and activity choices can lead to a healthier lifestyle.

The Health Department's Health Promotions Office plans to hold a Biggest Loser II in the near future.

Public Health Nurses Honored

Memphis and Shelby County nurses celebrated National Nurses Week May 6th through May 12th. The theme for this year's National Nurses Week observance was "Nurses: Strength, Commitment, Compassion," which aptly describes Memphis and Shelby County Health Department nurses.

The Office of Nursing held a celebratory reception for all the Department's registered nurses and licensed practical nurses at *Occasions* on Friday, May 12th.

Two awards were given at the reception to two of the Department's finest nurses. Constance Brown, an RN in the School Health Program was selected to receive the *June Chumley Ward Heart of a Public Health Nurse Award* for her "dedication, dependability, and the fact that she is such an invaluable resource to all served as well as to other nurses."

Darla Hale, RN was awarded the *Public Health Nurse Advancing Education Support Award*. Darla will receive tuition reimbursement of up to \$500 to assist her in her pursuit of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Nurses Week Photo:



Dr. Robert Stolarick, Ginger Swatley, and Dr. Judy Martin, Chief of Nursing, present the Heart of a Public Health Nurse Award to Constance Brown, RN.

Public Works

(NPC Liaison: Donna Downen)

CANADA ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FROM HIGHWAY 64 TO INTERSTATE-40

July 12, at 10:00 AM Shelby County Mayor A C Wharton, Jr., joined Lakeland Mayor Scott Carmichael, City and County Commissioners, dignitaries, and guests for a ribbon cutting ceremony opening the widened section of Canada Road between Interstate-40 and Highway 64. Shelby County partnered with the City of Lakeland to fund construction of just over one mile of roadway, increasing it from two lanes to four twelve foot lanes, with a thirty foot median, and eight foot shoulders. Lakeland specifically requested the larger median for a parkway feel that would enhance the southern corridor and achieve the City leaders' vision of a "Gateway to Lakeland". Though the Major Road Plan depicts Canada Road as a seven lane section, the design follows our Smart Growth strategy of trying to create a system of "more, smaller roads". This strategy includes development of an interconnected road network allowing motorists to commute without the need of accessing major roads. If future traffic volumes on Canada Road cannot be managed within the new section, and a smaller road system is not accessible to aid in reducing volumes, right-of-way is available to construct additional lanes.

Funding for this project was shared equally by Shelby County and the City of Lakeland with contract management performed by the County. The government project manager is Mr. Pete Motolenich, P.E. from the Office of the County Engineer. In September of 2002, Shelby County selected Dickinson and Bennett, Inc. to perform the roadway design, and a completed plan was delivered in December, 2003. Ferrell Paving, Inc. was awarded the

construction contract, which was completed under initial budget for about 2.1 million dollars, in July of 2004. Mr. Keith Ferrell, President of Ferrell Paving, donated landscaping along the median to aid in the beautification of this major north, south corridor. The City of Lakeland anticipates approval of a transportation enhancement grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation which will be used for further landscaping and bicycle paths on both sides of the roadway. The next big step toward improving traffic congestion along the Canada Road corridor will be a State government sponsored project to construct an interchange at I-40. The anticipated completion of the I-40 interchange is expected in the year 2010.



Mud Rescue

On June 5, 2006 at approximately 11:21 am, Rescue 66, Engine 67 and Battalion 22 responded to possibly the most unusual rescue call that we have ever had. The Shelby County Fire Department received live coverage from the helicopters of two local television stations along with coverage on MSNBC, CNN, 69 other T.V. markets and 89 newspapers.

Mr. Anthony Hawes of Shelby County had been hunting along the Loosahatchie River when he apparently stepped to close to the bank of the river and became trapped in the very thick, silty mud. The more he struggled to free himself, the deeper he sank.

Incredibly, he spent the entire night buried to his upper chest, unable to work his way free from the suction of the mud that held him hostage. During the night he fought fatigue, mosquitoes, snakes and hunger. When daylight came he spent hours yelling for help and waving at passing aircraft in hopes of being seen.

Finally, two fishermen stumbled upon Mr. Hawes and attempted to free him from the muck that had held him captive for almost twenty-four hours. When his would be rescuers found they could not free him, they decided to head back almost a mile to North Watkins in order to find help. Finally two ladies traveling down North Watkins in their car stopped to see what was wrong. They immediately headed for the County Fire Station in Northaven to report the incident to fire fighters.

Fire fighters from Station 67 arrived on the scene and made their way almost a mile off the road on foot to find Mr. Hawes stuck in the mud up to his mid-chest. Initial efforts to free him proved almost useless but, the first arriving engine company was able to stabilize the situation. Once Rescue 66 arrived with more manpower and an off duty fire fighter arrived with a four-wheel drive truck, they were able to get the necessary tools and equipment to the scene to

Public Works

(NPC Liaison: Donna Downen)

affect Mr. Hawes' rescue. It is obvious that the hours of training by all fire department personnel and the specialized training of Rescue 66 had a major impact on the outcome of this situation.

Once freed from the captive grip of the river bank mud, Mr. Hawes was transported to the hospital by Rural Metro Ambulance in stable condition.

Rescuers:

Battalion Chief 22-C, Robert Smith
Engine 67-C - Lt. Alonzo Jones, Pvt.
Mike Carpenter, Pvt. Tony Johnson and
Pvt. Steve Tow

Rescue 66-C - Lt. Joe McNatt, Driver
Rodney Smith, Pvt. Earnest Lubiani,
Pvt. Richard Russell

Off Duty Fire Fighter - Jeremy Havlik



2006 Special Events

Shelby County Employee's and Retirees Picnic

About 2000 Shelby County employees and retirees along with their families gathered for the June 3 picnic at Shelby Farms. The weather cooperated and it was a beautiful day. There was lots of food, entertainment, and activities for children and adults. Thanks to the generous donations by Elected Officials and others there were great door prizes won by over 70 of the attendees. The Steering Committee was made up of Paula Lewis (Administration & Finance), Carol

Farris (Health Department), and picnic co-chairs, Waverly Seward (Retirement) and Marcia Boyd (CAO's Office). They credit the success of the event to the many committee chairs and their volunteers.

Sandra Prince who is retired from Shelby County came back to chair the Food Preparation Committee. Her committee kept the food lines moving for hamburgers, hot dogs, smoked sausages, barbeque, slaw, potato chips and cook-

ies. Jerry Bullard (Code Enforcement) and his workers kept the grill fired up throughout the day cooking the delicious food. Folks didn't go thirsty as Carol Farris kept the drink trailers staffed with volunteer employees, Elected Officials and directors. Jasper Netter and other employees from Corrections made sure there was plenty of ice for the drinks. Lisa Williams (Road Department) chaired the Children's Activities Committee. There was a lot to do from water color painting, face painting, moon

Paul Boyd and Jerry Bullard fire up the grill



The Correction's Center Choir entertains



John Fowlkes relaxes with his family



Mayor Wharton enjoys the food and fellowship



Linda Rendtorff, Sandra Prince and Gabriel Touliatos prepare to serve the masses



Gloria Morris, Joe Kyles and David Newsom ready with the popcorn



Anna Whalley, Carol Farris, Donna Pavatte, and Paula Lewis welcome employees



Joy Touliatos is ready to serve



The hot dog eating contest



bounces, hay rides with Ranger Rick, volleyball and other park activities. Adults had activities too, thanks to Adult Activities chair, Yvonne Tate (Human Resources). They played bingo, participated (along with children) in the sack races, cake walks, and horse shoe toss. Toni Gray from the Credit Union made arrangements with several local auto dealerships to display their cars for a small fee. The fee helped to offset the cost of the picnic and gave the adults another diversion. Maggie Conway (Housing) ensured there was a variety of entertainment for everyone. When she learned there was a possibility of getting Yo! Memphis Academy featuring Gedeon McKinney from American Idol, Maggie found a way to fund it. With the help of Steve Stamson, Juvenile Court Clerk, donations were given by several Elected Officials to pay Yo! Memphis' fee. Additional entertainment included the National Anthem by Jennifer Rust, Correction's Center Choir, aerobic dem-

onstrations by Jazzercise, Wellworx and Craig Wright, demonstration by the Sheriff's Canine Unit and a hot dog eating contest. The hot dog eating contest was won by Greg Williams who consumed 10 hot dogs in 5 minutes! Barbara Treadway (Sheriff's Department) chaired the Door Prize Committee and Yvonne Bullard (Retirement) chaired the Decorating Committee.

Cigna Healthcare set up booths under the tent to provide employees and their families with important information and giveaways. Additionally, they provided face painting and balloons for the children and provided many of the door prizes. The Credit Union had frisbees, sun-visors and cups as giveaways and provided door prizes as did AFLAC.

Paula Lewis kept everyone informed weeks before the event by chairing the Communications Committee. She also made sure the front gate was staffed, the popcorn was popped, and kept up with

picnic expenses. Brent Perkins (Fire Department) and other firefighters were on hand to demonstrate the features of the new fire truck, and Rural/Metro Ambulance had both the educational ambulance and the miniature remote controlled ambulance for the children. Without all the behind the scenes work by Support Services, the Road Department, Shelby Farms staff and Corrections Center staff the picnic would not have been possible. Charles Wood (Road Department), Mike Wheeler (Support Services), and Steve Satterfield (Shelby Farms) and their staffs worked before to prepare the site and then to clean-up after everyone else had left the event.

Mayor Wharton announced that he would like to see this become an annual event so get ready to volunteer and participate in the fun and fellowship next year!



Yvonne Madlock enjoys the food



Andrew Taber and Jasper Netter deliver ice



Lisa Williams paints another face



Marcquinne Yancey relaxes with her family



Fathers and their daughters: Steve Satterfield with Maggie and Mary Grace and John Dougan with Heather



Sisters Nadine Porter (Codes), Inez Shelton (MLGW), and Laveirn Jones (Juvenile Court)



Welcome to the picnic



Yo! Memphis Academy featuring Gedeon McKinney



Another hayride with Ranger Rick

Celebrating Anniversaries & Outstanding Employees

November Anniversaries 2005

30 Years

Thomas P. Pera
Public Defender's Office

25 Years

Peggy J. Dobbins
Office on Aging

Herbert J. Lane
Juvenile Court

December Anniversaries 2005

40 years

Allen R. Medlock
Code Enforcement

35 Years

William V. Moore
Road Department

William A. Sears
Sheriff's Office

30 Years

Clard E. Baker, Jr.
Information Technology

Robert R. Savage
Health Department

25 Years

Bennie L. Cobb
Sheriff's Office

Alvin A. Dortch
Sheriff's Office

Berteel B. Harris
Sheriff's Office

Martha C. Lott
Regional Services

JoAnn N. Oliver
Health Department

Alice J. Phillips
Sheriff's Office

Sandra J. Smith
Sheriff's Office

Violet C. White
Health Department

August Anniversaries 2006

40 Years

Charles Phipps
Health Department

30 Years

Walter L. Bush
Juvenile Court Clerk

Malcolm G. Hood
Sheriff's Department

David N. McGriff
Attorney General's Office

Verdis T. McNutt
Health Department

Jane B. Murphy
Juvenile Court

Reginald K. Smith
Support Services

25 Years

Stella J. Stegall
Trustee's Office

Thelma M. Stribling
Sheriff's Department

Audrey H. Fleming
Correction Center

Kenneth B. Landry
Sheriff's Department

Diane Benson
Sheriff's Department

Kimberly L. Houston
Sheriff's Department

Gloria F. Morris
Sheriff's Department

Cecil D. Booker
Sheriff's Department

Billie J. Bolden
Sheriff's Department

Charlie C. Hubbard Jr.
Sheriff's Department

Minnie R. Irby
Sheriff's Department

Charline McGhee
Sheriff's Department

Larry Powell
Sheriff's Department

James Rainey Jr.
Sheriff's Department

Robert L. Riley
Sheriff's Department

Dennis Tillman
Sheriff's Department

Faye D. Wright
Sheriff's Department

September Anniversaries 2006

45 Years

Nell Autry
Health Department

40 Years

Woodrow T. Shinault
Engineering Department

35 Years

Nola J. Goodrich
Correction Center

Charles L. Nichols
County Clerk

30 Years

Terry L. Davenport
Fire Department

Debbie L. Ruble
Support Services

Byron D. Jamison
Health Department

Linda K. Marshall
Support Services

25 Years

Christy L. Jackson
Sheriff's Department

Judith A. Jones
Health Department

Dave R. Jones
Register's Office

Paula M. Lewis
Administration and Finance

Bobby J. Spencer Jr.
Sheriff's Department

Cynthia A. Stovall
Chancery Court Clerk

Celebrating Anniversaries & Outstanding Employees

BIOS FOR EMPLOYEES OF 1ST QUARTER OF 2006



Raymond E. Gaston, a Network Technician Sr. in Information Technology has been with the county since 1995. Ray is courteous, patient, and constantly demonstrates a “can do” attitude. Ray worked over 200 hours developing what has been described (by software development professionals) as an elegant and robust solution for CSA’s Utility Assistance Program. He developed and delivered 25 hours of training. Ray, a native Texan, is single. He helped raise his great-nephew, Glenn, who recently returned from Iraq. He cared for Glenn’s children, Rayne, 4 and Lucas 6, while he was away. Ray, a self-described photography and video amateur junky, enjoys music, singing, horseback riding, and was a member of a Christian band for 10 years in New Mexico.

Hazel Haywood, Supervisor of Administrative Services in Human Resources has been with the county since 2003. Hazel is a loyal and dedicated employee who takes ownership of her responsibilities. HR has lost 2 positions in two years and has absorbed the duties of those positions. Hazel took much of the extra work, applying the

same attention to detail and working late most of the time. She implemented many processes to help eliminate any possible error in employees’ records resulting in a 99.9%+ accuracy rate. Hazel is the proud parent of Leslie Haywood. Hazel enjoys accounting, basketball, walking and spending time with her family. She volunteers at church and assists seniors in her neighborhood.

Debra Louis, an Executive Secretary in the Purchasing Department has been with the County since 1979. Debra exemplifies the attitude and commitment of a model employee; she is the benchmark of excellence. Debra was relentless in assisting in the Inmate Medical and Medical Examiner’s Bid Projects. She took a leadership role in assisting the administrator in coordinating the project meetings and responses received from vendors. The preparation was exhaustive and extended beyond normal working hours. Debra demonstrates pride in her position with this department and county government. Debra is a widow and proud mother of Roderick and Tamara. She’s equally proud to be the grandparent of Derrick, Roderick, Jr., Sybil, and Raven. She enjoys time with family and volunteering at her church.

Emma Maxwell, a Clerical Specialist A at the Health Department has been with the County since 1979. Emma is described as an “excellent” employee and hard worker who provides professional service to her customers, who give many accolades. Emma is leave specialist for the department and must maintain accuracy in leave accounting. She streamlined the leave accounting and auditing process. The monthly leave report she prepares allowed the managers and HR to better monitor use of sick leave and recognize abuse. As a result, sick leave use decreased significantly the past two years. Emma is a team player who volunteers with various projects in the office. She assumed added responsibilities and accepted willingly, doing an excellent job. Emma is a native Mississippian and proud parent of Erica and Kendra and proud grandparent of Markevius and Marreya. Emma enjoys reading the bible and listening to gospel music.

Sharen McKee, Office Coordinator in the Finance Department has been with the county since 1989. She has the ability and experience to recognize issues and a “let’s solve the matter” attitude regardless of whose responsibility it is to solve it. She’s invaluable in Finance and works with Purchasing to ensure a smooth transition to the new procurement card program. Throughout the implementation, Sharen made suggestions, including items relative to setup of web applications, forms, and instructions for cardholders. While busy with other work she took the responsibility of working with IT to develop Finance’s intranet website. This is typical of her performance and attitude with both internal and external customers, always for the county’s best interest. Sharen is married to Bill and has two children, Deena and Sean. They are proud grandparents of five grandsons. Sharen enjoys quilting, starting the tradition for her 1st grandchild and continuing with each one. She enjoys working in her garden and traveling to historical places.

Andrew Ward, Jr., a Construction Inspector with the Engineering Department has been with the county since 1995. His supervisor states “he is the most helpful individual that I have had the privilege to work with”. His willingness and professionalism is a true asset for the Field Inspection Office and Engineering. He can identify inconsistencies with rfp’s and actual services performed, ensuring quality control at all levels. He is often called for expert advice in traffic control to rectify possible safety concerns with the motoring public. His selfless service is constantly depicted when covering for other inspectors in their absence. He even sought and paid for his certification in traffic control enabling him to serve in this capacity. Andy is married to Joan and they are proud parents of Renee and Terrea and grandparents of 10 year old Tyler. Andy enjoys fishing, all sports and spending time with his wife, who just happens to be his best friend.

Mayor's Employee Council

MAYOR'S EMPLOYEE COUNCIL

The Mayor's Employee Council held their fourth meeting on May 9. After reviewing the status of previous recommendations, the Council tackled new issues.

Employee parking problems are still being reviewed and there is no quick fix. The members were informed that Support Services is looking for other facilities in the Health Department area and downtown area for possible additional parking.

The use of fitness centers for County employees is being explored by the Wellness Committee, chaired by Catherine Green. The challenge is to find facilities that are located in areas easily accessible to County employees that will give the highest discounts.

A sub-committee of the Council had met to discuss how the Mayor's FedEx Forum tickets could be distributed to employees as an incentive. They recommended to the Council a proposal to award tickets for perfect attendance. Council members wanted to look at other possibilities such as years of service to the County and community service. They also wanted to see if co-workers had other suggestions.

There were questions about when training would be available for employees again. One suggestion was to have "Brown Bag lunches and bring in speakers to present topics of interest to employees. One member wanted to bring back the workshops on retirement. There was also discussion on lack of

safety training in some areas. All these issues are being investigated so that some answers can be provided to the Council at the next meeting.

There were questions about the new security measures in the 160 North Main building and if they would be implemented in other County buildings. The answer was, "yes", but no timelines could be presented at the meeting. For a complete set of the May 9 meeting minutes go to the intranet, "My Shelby County".

The Council will meet again August 22. If you have an issue or suggestion, pass it on to one of the members. A complete listing of members is on the intranet with their contact information.

Administration & Finance

Well Done!!!



The Compensation Unit would like to extend thanks to our outgoing Classification Committee. The Committee functions as an arm of the Civil Service Merit Board. The Committee hears matters related to classification of job grades for Shelby County Government. The Committee serves a three year term and meets every two (2) weeks. The members represent various

departments and are composed of employees who hold professional, supervisory or managerial positions. The Classification Committee members who have just completed their term of service are Minus Adams, Corrections Center, Gordon Crisp, Trustee's Office, Libby Kelly, Sheriff's Office and Tracee Stills, Roads Department. Mr. Adams served as Chairperson

of the Committee.

The Committee put in many hours of dedicated service and made an invaluable contribution to Shelby County Government. In a recent ceremony, Mayor AC Wharton presented a plaque to each member with a thank you for their participation. We thank the Committee for a job well done!

The County Commission has approved the budget for our fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. The budget includes a 3% salary increase **effective** October 1. The mileage reimbursement rate was increased to 42 cents per mile for personal automobile use for business after June 30. The property tax rate remains the same as last year at \$4.04. We are often asked "what are our property taxes used for?" The answer is 60% of property taxes are spent on education, including debt service for schools. Criminal justice accounts for 23%, debt service other than schools is 10%, health receives 4% and only 3% of property taxes are spent on everything else we do. This clearly shows the County's first priority is education and criminal justice is a distant second.

We want to thank all County employees for making a concerted effort to do more with less and to operate in a prudent financial manner. With your help, we finished the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006 in a very positive manner and were able to balance the 2007 budget without a tax increase.

Planning & Development

(NPC Liaison: Katherine Turner)

Fair Housing Specialist Appointed to Shelby County Board of Commissioners

In March 2006, E. Michael Yarber, a Fair Housing Specialist with the Shelby County Department of Housing, was appointed by Mayor A C Wharton as a Commissioner for the Shelby County Housing Authority Board. The Shelby County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners is charged with the responsibility of conducting business in the best interest of the residents of the Housing Authority's two developments—Horton Gardens and Kefauver Terrance. Collectively, these housing developments contain 175 units.

As one of five commissioners, Mr. Yarber will serve a five year term set to expire in 2011. Additionally, Mr. Yarber, along with the other commissioners, will focus their efforts this year on hiring an Executive Director to provide management strategies for the Housing Authority.

...A Bit about E. Michael Yarber

E. Michael Yarber is a veteran Shelby County employee approaching 30 years of continuous service. Since 1994, Mr. Yarber has worked in the Shelby County Department of Housing within the Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development. During his tenure with the Department of Housing, Mr. Yarber has served on numerous committee's that address fair housing issues including the FDIC Market Rate Housing for Low-Moderate Income Families, the Memphis Affordable Housing Coalition, the Memphis and Shelby County Anti-Predatory Lending Committee, the Mayor's Fair Housing Task Force, the Fair Housing Alliance of Greater Memphis and the Memphis Housing Authority's Advisory Board for the Self-Sufficiency Program.

Mr. Yarber is also an Associate Minister for the Pentecostal Temple Institutional Church of God in Christ. He currently serves as the President of the Evangelism Department for the church district



and is the President of the District's Prison Ministry. His church conducts prison ministries at the Shelby County Correction Center for the men, the Adult Offender Center for the women, and The Mark Luttrell Reception Center.

Ms. Shirley Davis: Retired on June 30, 2006



For 22 years, Ms. Shirley Davis has served the Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development as a Secretary. Ms. Davis began her

career with the Division in 1984 with the Private Industry Council and the following year she transferred to the Office of Planning and Development. When asked about her most memorable experiences during her career Ms. Davis smiled and said, "I have had the opportunity to meet some amazing people and learn skills that will be useful in future endeavors I may pursue."

Following Ms. Davis' retirement, she will devote much of her time to her three granddaughters ages 3, 8, and 12. Ms. Davis plans on many travels with her granddaughters including Disneyland. Ms. Davis will also be busy providing health-care to her mother.

Upcoming Events Agricenter International

August 19
**Mothers of Multiples-
Everything for Kids Sale**
901-373-9990
Saturday 7:00am-3:00pm

August 26
Festival of Hathor's Fundraiser
901-763-2455
Saturday 7:00pm-Midnight
Admission is free-
Donations will be accepted
Reservations REQUIRED

September 10-17
Healing Field: a 9/11 Tribute

September 17
Taste of the Town
901-755-1200
Sunday 6:00PM - 11:00PM

Accomplishments & Kudos

Great Rewards

Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies...Toya Mason, an employee for the Division of Correction since July 1991, was honored by the National Coalition of Women in Ministry with an Ester Award on Friday, May 19, 2006 at the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church.



The Ester Award is awarded to women showing leadership and ministry in their church and in their community. Toya Mason, one who is constantly sharing and giving of the gifts and talents bestowed upon her is also a contributing writer for County Lines.

A member of New Salem Baptist -Parkway for more than 19 years, she is an adult Sunday School Teacher. In the community helping others with fundraising events, Toya has just completed her 9th Annual Fashion Show for the West Junction Neighborhood Association. This grand affair raises money for scholarships for Mitchell High School Seniors. Toya is also chairperson for The Shelby County Volunteer Support Committee for more than six (6) years. This organization (whose clients are referred by the Tennessee Department of Human Service) annually raises money through a Love Breakfast to provide shoes for children and a Fashion Show and Luncheon that provides medical assistance, food, and etc. for the elderly and mentally challenged adults also referred to them by the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

Congratulations Toya for giving back!

FARMERS MARKET

The Farmer's Market has become home to a local crafters market every Saturday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. A diverse selection of gifts and crafts can be found, from handmade angels pins and homemade pies to scarves and ponchos. If you would like to participate as a vendor or find out more specifics on the Crafters Market, contact Bryan Martinez at bmarinez@agricenter.org or by phone at 901-355-1977.

The Agricenter Farmer's Market provides a facility for area producers to market high-cash-value products. Visitors and local citizens have the opportunity to buy seasonal fresh produce, horticultural items, and Christmas trees. The Farmer's Market is open with produce from April 15 to October 31 and with Christmas Trees from December 1 to December 23. Hours are Monday-Friday 7:30 am to 6:00 pm, Saturday 7:00 am to 5:30 pm, closed Sunday. The first Saturday after Thanksgiving the Market holds its annual Holiday Open House from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Come out and support your local farmers and feed your family the freshest.

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